

**LANCASTER COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE TEAM 3**

January 18, 2005

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

555 S. 9th St.

In attendance T. J. McDowel, Dennis Banks, Linda Alm, Melissa Beecher, Ashley Wimes

Statistics

- Statistics of females, males and minorities in detention were reviewed and discussed. The research showed an over-representation of minorities in detention especially female minorities. Female minorities (Hispanic and Native American) were also much more likely to be detained numerous times. The statistics also pointed out that the number of females detained increased 23.7% from 2003 to the first 11 months of 2004 and the number of males decreased 15.3% during this same time period. This increase will be greater once December 2004 statistics can be added. Statistics on youth that were detained between August and October 2004 showed 60% of the youth were previously detained with an even greater percentage of minorities previously detained.
- It was decided that additional statistics on males should be gathered as well as updating the information with 2004 complete year to replace the statistics for the first 11 months of 2004.
- Dennis suggested more in-depth case studies to fully understand the youth's situation. He suggested information on all of the programs and services that have been offered to the family, the economic issues of the family, the status of the parents (if parents were in jail or ever had been in jail), if there are environmental or supervision issues (if the parent works two jobs or in the evenings).
- The group suggested that Melissa contact Wayne Svoboda with Volunteer Partnership to see if she could present the statistics at their meeting with the cultural centers. They may be able to help us address issues and collaborate on the project that we are working on.

Ideas on what can be done to decrease the number of minorities in the juvenile justice system

- T. J. suggested looking at the 10 highest users and providing an intensive case manager for the youth. Melissa stated that the Amazing Race grant that was applied for had this in mind. Youth that were detained the most were identified for this intensive program which focuses mostly on minority females. This type of program could be applied to all the youth that have been in and out of the system numerous times.
- Dennis suggested working with kids that are just entering the juvenile justice system or are not yet in the system such as truant youth, abused or neglected children or diversion youth.
- Dennis suggested that there needs to be more options to work with these youth other than detention.
- African American Empowerment Class was discussed. Leon Caldwell, Melissa and Kit will be meeting soon to discuss expand this program to more high schools in Lincoln and the possibility of develop a curriculum for African American females.

- Parental Empowerment Class was discussed. The group felt a short parenting class such as one day or half day would be most helpful to parents of youth in the juvenile justice system. The group suggested that the first part of the class should gather information on the issues that the parents are having which would determine what part of the curriculum is covered. Only topics or areas that the parents are having issues or needs would be addressed. Additional classes could be offered with each class being different depending on the needs of the group of parents.
- It was suggested that we ask Scott what issues his parents may want information on to make sure the curriculum covers all the possible issues.
- Curriculum could be borrowed from existing programs with LCAD or HHS or Omaha Home for Boys. Melissa will contact LCAD, Ashley will contact HHS and Linda will contact the Omaha Home for Boys to see if we can utilize these curriculums.

Other

- The group suggested that Deb with CASA, Child Guidance, Child Advocacy and representation from all of the cultural centers should attend this meeting.

Set next meeting date

- February 15 at 9:30 at 555 S. 9th St.